Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN XM MX

SUBJ: INDIAN DIPLOMATS MEET IN MEXICO

- 1. MEXICO CITY PRESS REPORTS THAT INDIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. YANDHOHAWAN B. CHAVAN, ARRIVED HERE MAY 7 FOR A MEETING WITH THE CHIEFS OF THE TEN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS INDIA HAS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AREA.
- 2. ON ARRIVAL, FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY GONZALEZ SOSA AND GAVE A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE. SALIENT POINTS OF CHAVAN'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS WERE (A) INDIA RECOGNIZES THE INITIATIVES OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA (I.E. THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES IN THE UN AND THE PROPOSED WORLD FOOD BANK AT THE FAO CONFERENCE IN ROME), (B) INDIA'S TESTING OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES ARE SOLEY TO ADVANCE HER TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AND (C) THE REPORTS OF HUNGER IN INDIA ARE EXAGGERATED. HE POINTED OUT THAT INDIA HAS DOUBLED PRODUCTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS SO THAT IT NOW HAS TO IMPORT ONLY 5 PERCENT OF ITS FOOD NEEDS AND ALSO THAT AS A RESULT OF FAMILY PLANNING, INDIA POPULATION GROWTH HAS DROPPED TO 2.3 PERCENT ANNUALLY. CHAVAN ALSO SAID HE WILL MEET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA (PRESUMABLY WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE RETURNS FROM OAS IN WASHINGTON) BUT ONLY TO GREET HIM,

NOT FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

3. COMMENT: CHAVAN'S REMARKS ON ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVES
ARE TAKEN FROM THE SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY EL NACIONAL WHICH
INVARIABLY EMPHASIZES AND OCCASIONALLY EXAGGERATES ENDORSEMENTS
OF THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICIES. CHAVAN'S REMARKS ARE
FAR LESS EFFUSIVE THAN THOSE OF MOST OTHER RECENT THIRD
WORLD VISITORS.
JOVA

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